



DEPARTMENT OF BIOMATHEMATICS
DAVID GEFLEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90095-1766

July 10, 2010

Direzione per la Salvaguardia Ambientale del Ministero dell'Ambiente
e della tutela del territorio e del mare
Attenzione: Petroceltic International - concessione D493 BR-EL e D505
BR-EL
Via Cristoforo Colombo 44
00147 Roma

Direzione Generale della Pesca Marittima e dell'Acquacoltura del Ministero
delle Politiche Agricole Alimentari e Forestali
Attenzione: Petroceltic International - concessione D493 BR-EL e D505
BR-EL
Via dell'Arte,
16 - 00144 - Roma

Dear Honorable Minister of the Environment:

I am writing to you to recommend that you deny authorization to the drilling permits d505 BR-EL and d493 BR-EL, as filed to your office by Petroceltic International, based in Dublin.

These permits would allow an Irish company to drill heavy sour oil about 25 km from shore in one of the most beautiful seas of the Adriatic along the Costa dei Trabocchi, and would be the beginning of the transformation of Abruzzo into an oil district.

The company itself acknowledges in its environmental statement that the oil rig will be clearly visible from shore, that polluting chemicals will be used, that large quantities of waste waters will have to be transported and treated onshore, and that fishing activities will be affected. Most likely, industrial facilities will have to be built on land, turning a touristic place into an oil processing location. The Abruzzo people stand to gain very little in return, since the oil will be sold on the open market and since Italian royalties are among the lowest in the world - about 4% profits, which will mostly end up in Roman coffers.

We have all seen the devastation caused by the massive BP oil spill and we believe that the Ministry should follow the directive of the European commissioner for energy, Gunther Oettinger, who on July 7th 2010, proposed a moratorium on deepwater drilling throughout Europe. Furthermore, Italy ratified the Aarhus treaty, which guarantees public participation and calls for the will of the people to be heard in all environmental matters.

Drilling and polluting the oceans will kill many irreplaceable fish and damage fishing and tourism for many generations. It is unconscionable that you would allow such drilling to destroy your God-given natural resources for not only you, but your children and grandchildren.

Sincerely,

Thomas Chou
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